

Multi stakeholders initiatives: technical or political tools?

RSPO and RTRS case

MSI : Multi Stakeholder Initiatives

- Many positive aspects of MSI in literature (learning process, new possibilities of dialogues, etc.)
- But here, with a short time presentation, I will focus on difficulties raised in MSI

Some critics in literature

- Classical critics about MSI :
Difficulties for North NGO to represent “vulnerable groups”, because deal with “global issue”, and far from them (indirect links)
No clarification on rules for participating
- New critics on “Participation”
 - Procedural rationality => depoliticisation
 - Difficulty to take into account “real persons” and their life
 - People who are not prepared to public deliberation can be disqualified

RT : Who participates? Who is (legitimized) participant ?

- RT Objectives : “open”, “transparent”, “multi-stakeholder” (=legitimacy)
- What about Participants ?
 - Participant invites himself (voluntary)
 - He is able to defend/represent an interest group (stakeholder/Balance of interests)
 - “If you are an individual you are invisible”
 - Play a role : negotiation, lobbying
 - Be : pro active (no “victim”, no “passive”)
 - Able to deliver a “broad”/“global” vision (“no local”/specific)



Consequences : keep local persons (local communities, some smallholder) out of « legitimate » participants

- Put at a disadvantage those who are :
 - not well informed, not in the “good” networks, not organized in visible groups, too “local”.

- Disqualification.

Their representation is frequently taken by other stakeholders (consultants, national bodies, industry of palm oil, etc.) even if their interests differ...

International NGO-Industries: convergences

International NGOs, Industries		Local communities /smallholders
Biology, Biodiversity, Agronomy		Local and practical knowledge
Personal detachment		Personal, affective attachments

Tensions

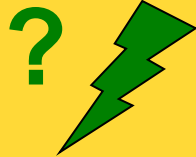
=> Capacity of the device to recognize « affected » people ?

Pragmatism Vs Principles ?

“Urgency” conception (=rhythm of deforestation = imposed by Industry)



“Pragmatism”



“Justice”
(right, fair, just)



Existing solutions
Vs “debate”,
common comprehension

Pragmatism

- *« We take as a fact that soy is needed »*
- *« We just produce what is demanded. Production is a reality and you should work with the reality ».*
- *« I have my heart. But we are in a hurry. So I do not have time to wait all people to be educated and understand the problem, and bla bla bla. And there are solutions”.*
- *« It's not ideal but we have to move ».*

Stress on differences / take on board
Industry / threat of breakup which is real :



- Political arbitration (exclusion of participants / political ideas), ex : Fetrat-Sul
- “RT Language (style)”
 - Avoiding difficulties with political issues (land issues, etc), cautious formulations
 - Technical Rationality to implement P&C

Opposition RTRS / FETRAF

A difficult compromise which conducted Fetraf Sul
to dismiss in 2005

“Dominant” Model	Fetraf-Sul : Family Agriculture
Agro-Business Intensification Monoculture OGM or conventional	Diversification : Risk security + Food security Autonomy No OGM Change markets Change distribution of wealth (added value) / solidarity-equity

Technical rationality : PCI and what is sustainability

- Difficulties to debate on what is sustainability, common good, on values, on future.
 - *“What is sustainability : you will disagree. It is too long. Nobody has the same vision”*
- PCI : separation of the 3 pillars (what about potential antagonism ?)
- Possibility to talk about “horizontal” questions ?
- Consequence : disqualification of local communities in plenary (RT6) when introducing those questions (land issues, ...).